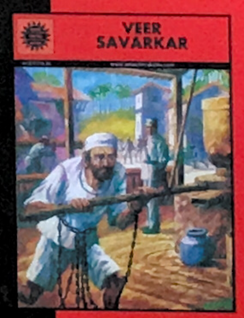
JALLIANWALA BAGH

The day was April 13, 1919. It was the festival of Baisakhi, new year's day in the Punjab, when thousands of holidaying villagers mingled with the citizens of Amritsar to listen to their leaders in Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh. No one even imagined that the garden would turn into a killing field. The British Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, in a bid to teach 'a moral lesson to the Punjab', ordered his soldiers to open fire at the unarmed crowd of men, women and children.

It was a turning point in India's struggle for freedom.

BRAVEHEARTS

OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS



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JALLIANWALA BAGH

MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

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Jallianwalla Bagh

IN THE YEAR 1919 THERE WAS UNREST IN PUNJAB IN AMRITSAR, THE BRITISH RULE WAS CONSIDERED BOTH OPPRESSIVE AND INEFFICIENT BY THE PEOPLE.

PRICES ARE SOARING YOU SAY. WHAT CAN I DO? THE GOVERNMENT EXTORTS HIGH TAXES!

THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING NOTHING TO HELP US!

BHAI, HOW CAN IT? THE GOVERNMENT IS BUSY PASSING THIS BILL AND THAT BILL.

THAT'S RIGHT! NOW IT IS THE ROWLATT BILL!

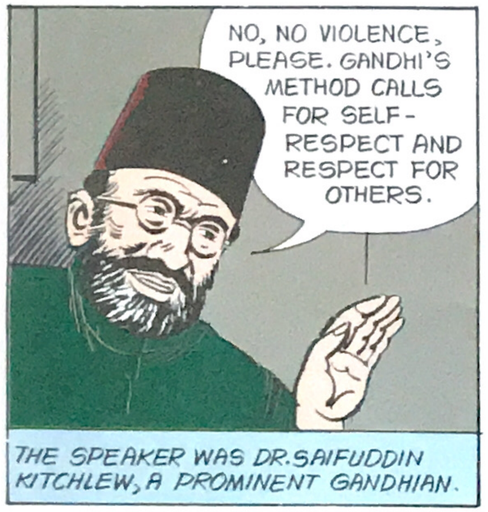
BUT WHO CARES? IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

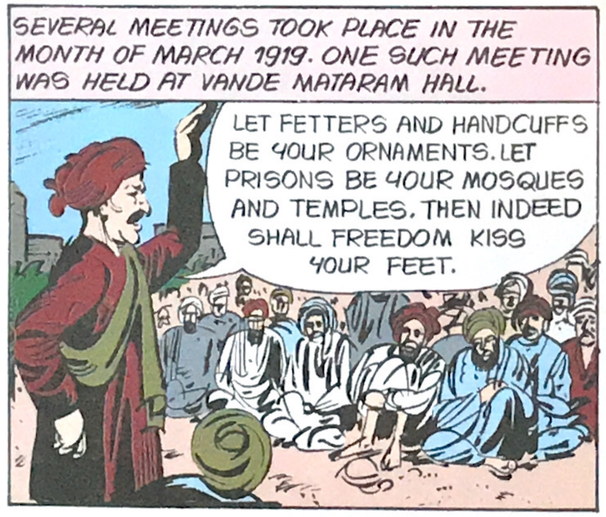
YOU ARE WRONG, BROTHER.

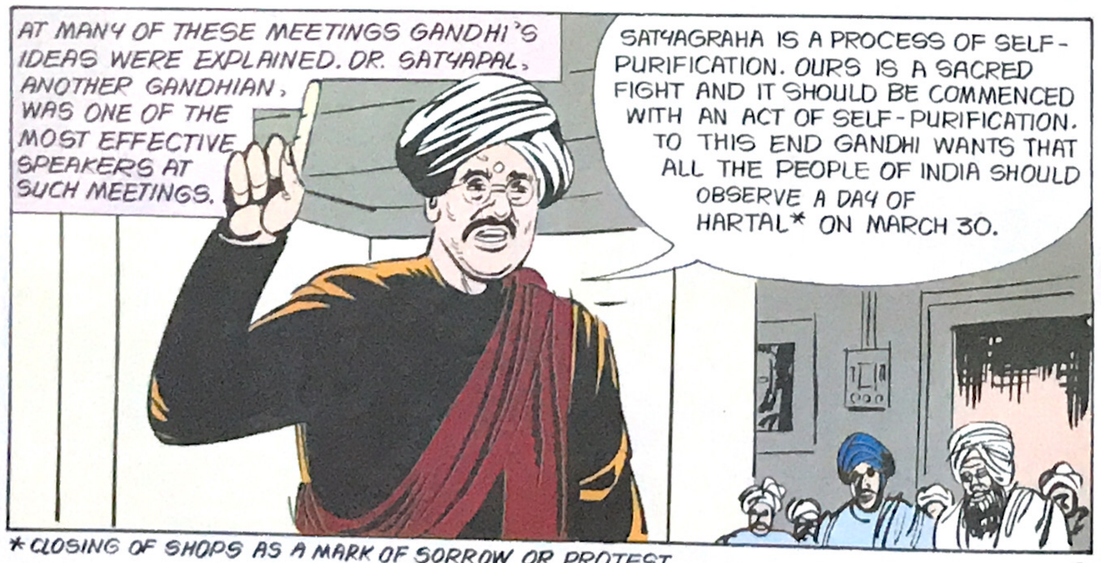
IF THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO, IT COULD HAVE YOU ARRESTED AND SENT TO JAIL, MERELY ON SUSPICION. THE ROWLATT ACT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT THAT POWER.

GANDHIJI SAYS THE ROWLATT ACT IS A SYMBOL OF NATIONAL HUMILIATION!

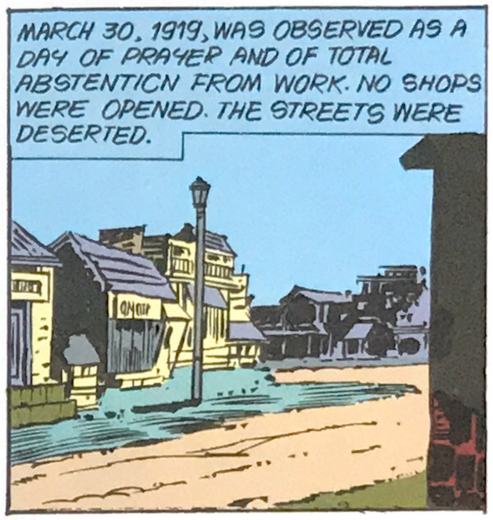
PEOPLE IN AMRITSAR AS IN OTHER PARTS OF INDIA LOOKED TO GANDHIJI FOR GUIDANCE.

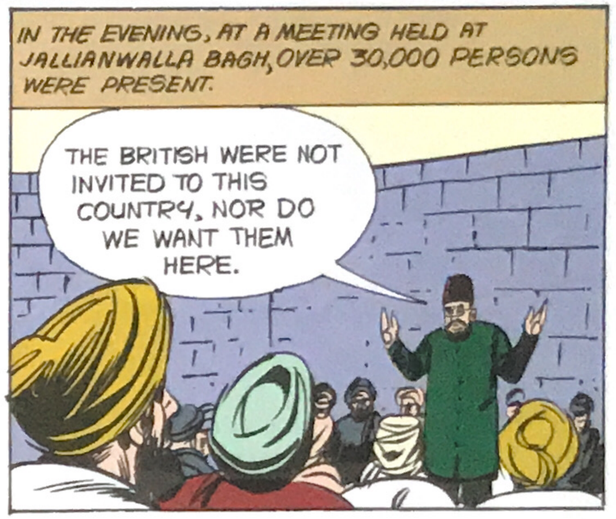






*CLOSING OF SHOPS AS A MARK OF SORROW OR PROTEST





SOON AFTER, THERE WAS NEWS THAT THE DATE OF THE HARTAL HAD ACTUALLY BEEN POSTPONED BY GANDHIJI TO APRIL 6, TO GIVE THE WHOLE COUNTRY TIME TO PREPARE.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

NEVER MIND, WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER HARTAL ON APRIL 6. WE'LL TREAT THE EARLIER ONE AS A REHEARSAL.

ON APRIL 6, THE HARTAL WAS AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE PREVIOUS ONE.

LATER THAT DAY, NEARLY 50,000 PERSONS ATTENDED THE MEETING WHICH WAS PRESIDED OVER BY DR BADRUL ISLAM KHAN.

WE HAVE MET HERE TO DEMAND THE REPEAL OF THE ROWLATT ACT.

YES REPEAL THE ROWLATT ACT!

REPEAL THE BLACK ACT!

DR. SATYAPAL AND DR. KITCHLEW DID NOT SPEAK THE GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED ORDERS PROHIBITING THEM FROM ADDRESSING MEETINGS.

WE DEMAND THAT THE ORDERS RROHIBITING DR. SATYAPAL AND DR. KITCHLEW FROM ADDRESSING MEETINGS BE WITHDRAWN!

SATYAPAL ZINDABAD!

KITCHLEW ZINDABAD!

MR. IRVING, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF AMRITSAR, WAS A WORRIED MAN.

HMM — THESE MEN, KITCHLEW AND SATYAPAL, SEEM TO HAVE A TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE OVER THE PEOPLE. THEY JUST CALL FOR A HARTAL AND THE PEOPLE OBEY...

THE DAY PASSED OFF QUIETLY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE; BUT THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELIEVED THAT THE HARTAL WAS THE FIRST STEP, A TEST OF STRENGTH — AND WORSE WAS TO FOLLOW.

IF A RIOT WERE TO BREAK OUT, OUR GARRISON WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT EVEN TO DEFEND THE CIVIL LINES. WE MIGHT THEN HAVE TO ABANDON NINE-TENTHS OF THE CITY!

ACCORDINGLY HE WROTE TO HIS SUPERIOR TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS.

APRIL 9 WAS RAM NAVAMI DAY ON THIS HINDU FESTIVAL, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, A LARGE ORDERLY PROCESSION OF HINDUS, MUSLIMS AND SIKHS WALKED THROUGH CROWDED STREETS.

GANDHI MAHARAJ KI JAI.

KITCHLEWJI KI JAI.

SATYAPALJI KI JAI.

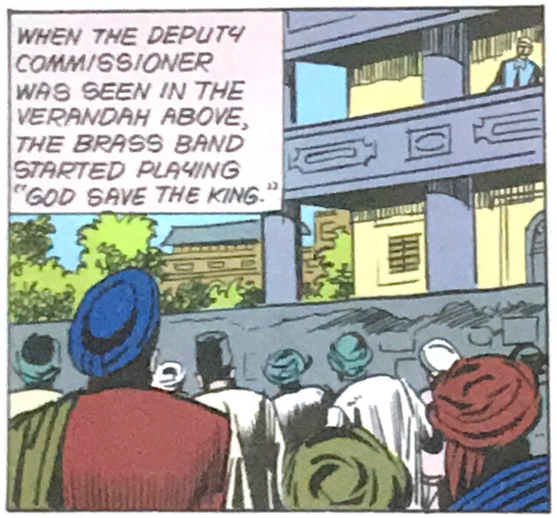
HINDUS PUBLICLY ACCEPTED WATER FROM MUSLIMS.

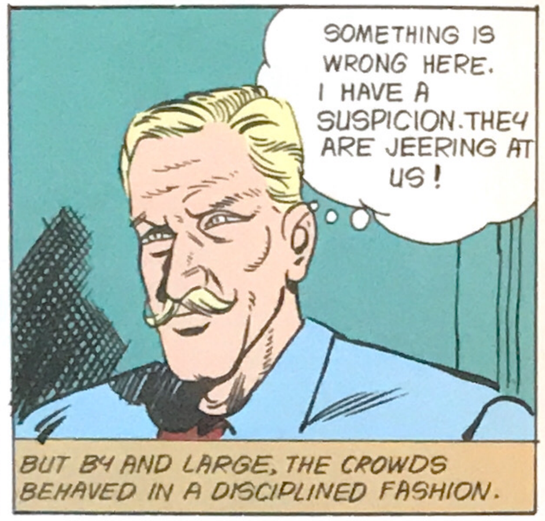
HINDU — MUSALMAN KI JAI!

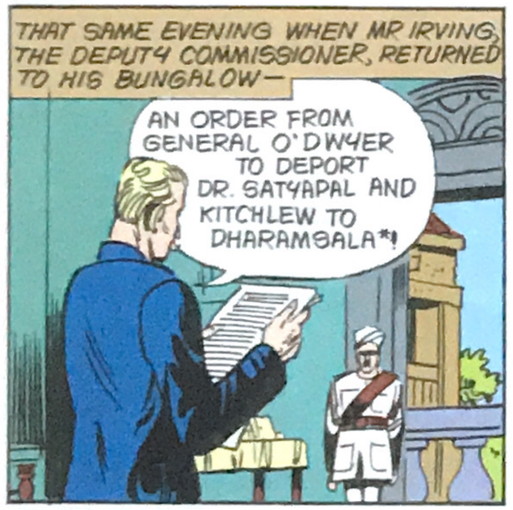
HINDU — MUSALMAN KI JAI!

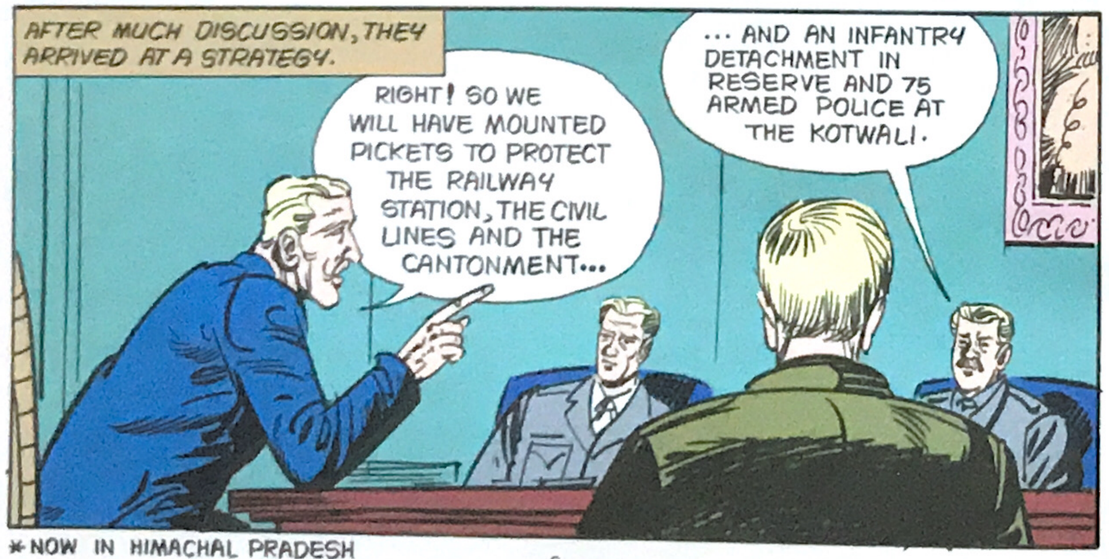
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WITNESSED THE SCENE FROM THE VERANDAH OF A BUILDING.

THESE TWO COMMUNITIES FRATERNIZING — THAT'S A BAD SIGN...

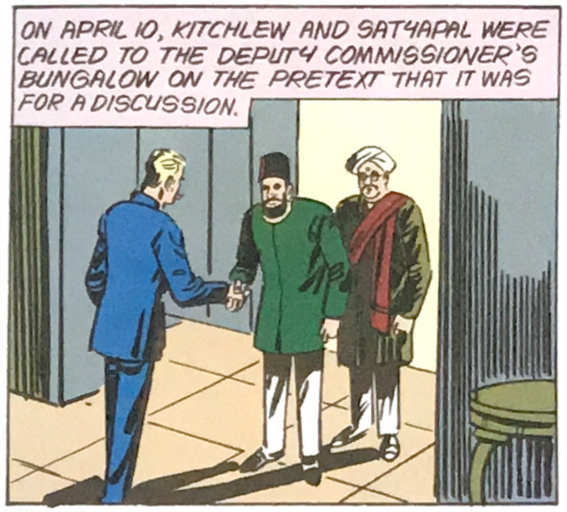


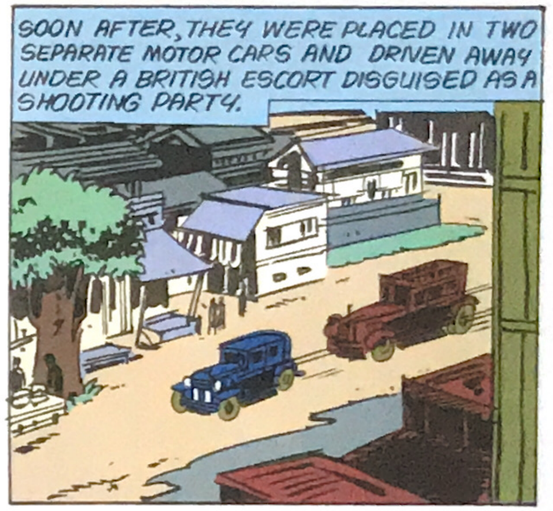


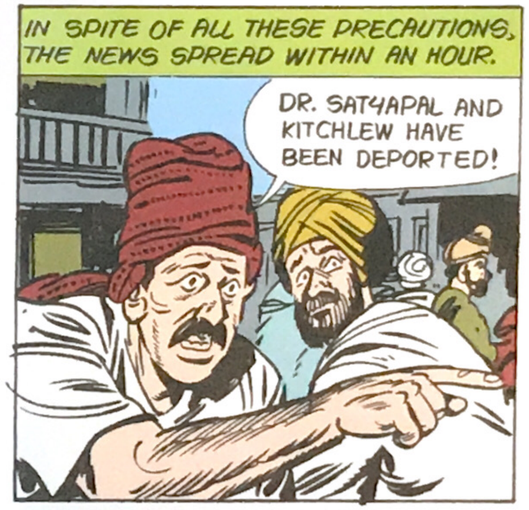


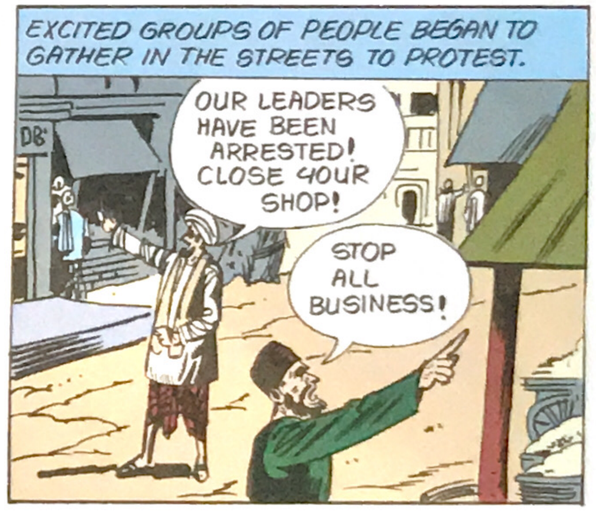


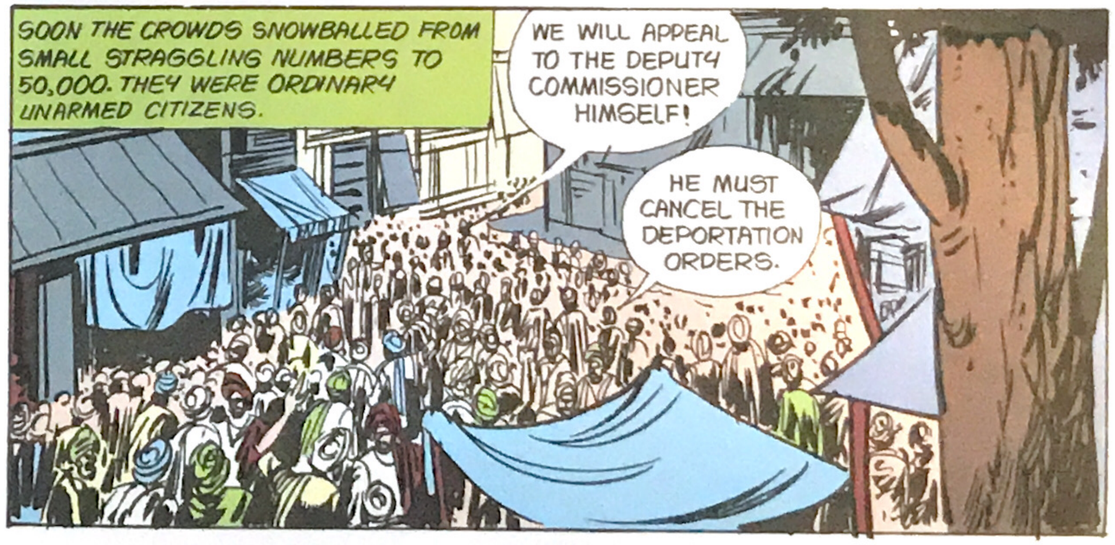
*NOW IN HIMACHAL PRADESH





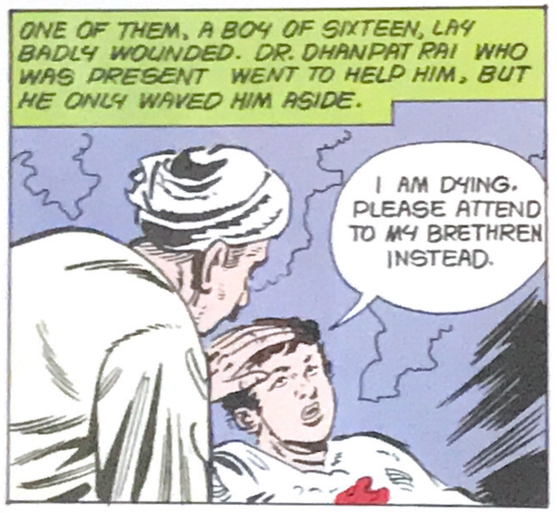




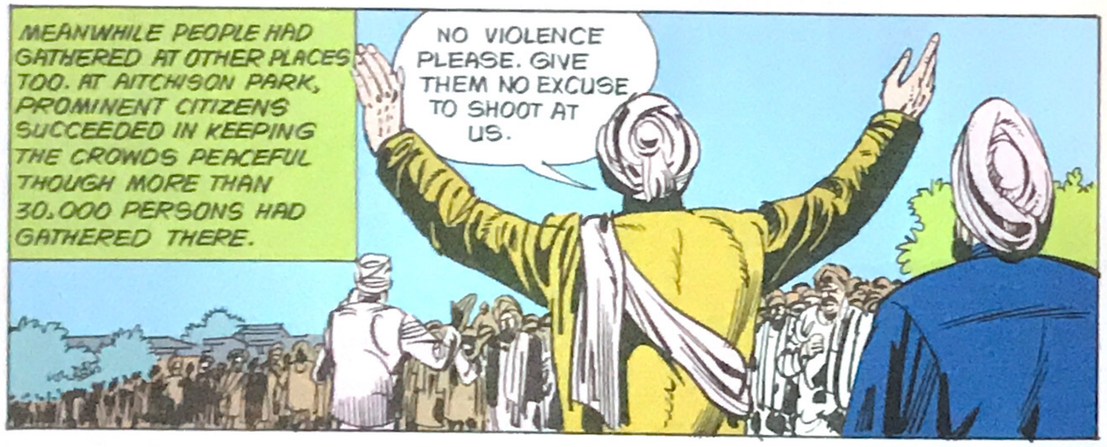


HE MUST RESTORE OUR LEADERS TO US.
WE MUST HAVE OUR LEADERS BACK OR WE MUST BE PREPARED TO DIE!
THEY PASSED A NUMBER OF EUROPEANS ON THE WAY, BUT THE CROWD TOOK NO NOTICE OF THEM. THEY WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN AIRING THEIR GRIEVANCES.
WE WILL TALK TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER! WHERE ARE OUR LEADERS? WE WANT THEM BACK.
THIS CROWD WALKED THROUGH THE STREETS, TOWARDS THE CIVIL LINES — PAST THE HALL BAZAAR AND THE BANKS TILL THEY REACHED THE CARRIAGE-BRIDGE:
LOOK!
THERE ARE MOUNTED TROOPS ON THE CARRIAGE-BRIDGE!
THEY WON'T LET US ENTER THE CIVIL LINES!
KEEP MOVING! DON'T BE AFRAID!
LIKE A TYPHOON THE EXCITED CROWD SURGED FORWARD···
··· AND THE TROOPS RETREATED OVER THE BRIDGE. THE CROWD FOLLOWED THEM.

WHEN THEY HAD NEARLY REACHED THE OTHER END OF THE BRIDGE, THE MOUNTED SOLDIERS, IN DESPERATION, TURNED ROUND AND FIRED AT THE CROWD.
BANG
THREE OR FOUR DIED AND MANY WERE WOUNDED···
HELP!
HE'S BEEN HIT!
THE PEOPLE WERE PROVOKED. THEY PICKED UP STONES, STACKED ON THE ROADSIDE FOR METALLING WORK AND THREW THEM AT THE PICKET.
WE MUST HAVE OUR TWO LEADERS BACK···
··· OR WE ARE READY TO DIE!
THEN TWO OF THE POLICEMEN DISMOUNTED, TOOK COVER BEHIND SOME CULVERTS AND FIRED.
SIX OR SEVEN SHOTS BROUGHT THE CROWD TO A STANDSTILL, FOR SEVERAL HAD FALLEN.


ONE OF THEM, A BOY OF SIXTEEN, LAY BADLY WOUNDED. DR. DHANPAT RAI WHO WAS PRESENT WENT TO HELP HIM, BUT HE ONLY WAVED HIM ASIDE.
I AM DYING. PLEASE ATTEND TO MY BRETHREN INSTEAD.

HINDU-MUSALMAN KI JAI!
A MOMENT LATER HE DIED.

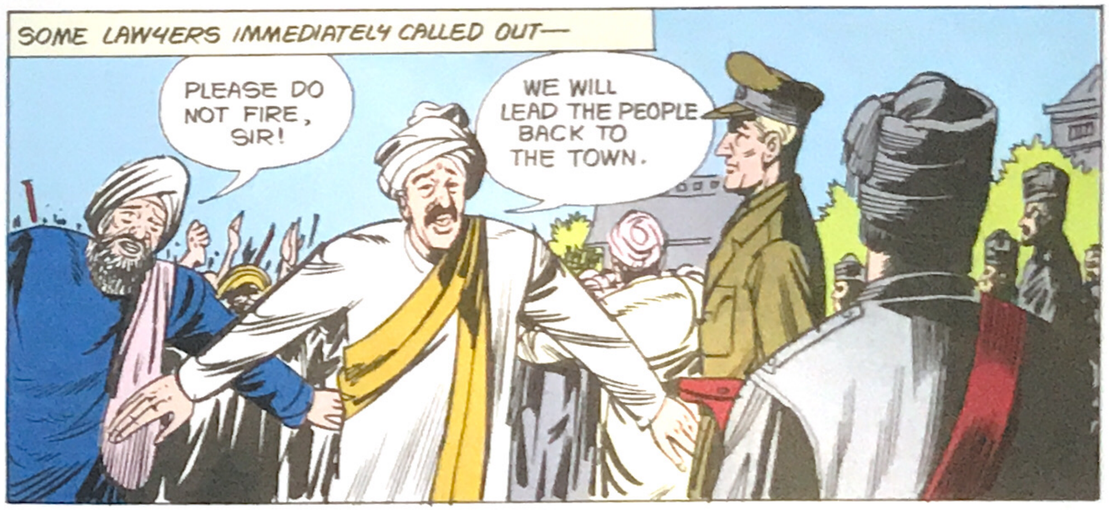

MEANWHILE PEOPLE HAD GATHERED AT OTHER PLACES TOO. AT AITCHISON PARK, PROMINENT CITIZENS SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING THE CROWDS PEACEFUL THOUGH MORE THAN 30,000 PERSONS HAD GATHERED THERE.
NO VIOLENCE PLEASE. GIVE THEM NO EXCUSE TO SHOOT AT US.

BUT PART OF THIS CROWD EXTENDED UPTO THE THE FOOT-BRIDGE.

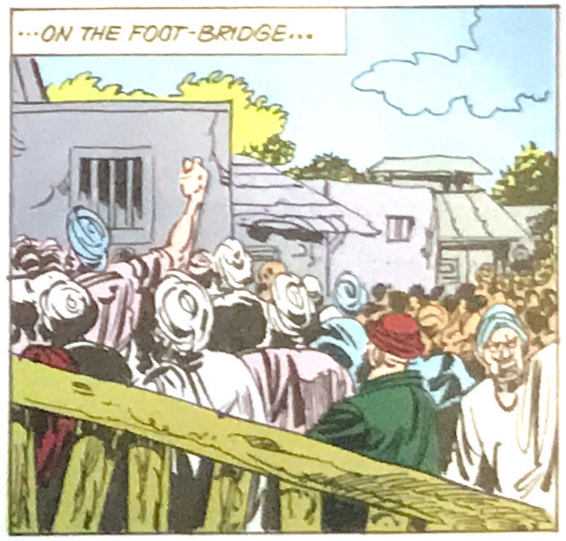
SUDDENLY IT CONFRONTED A SMALL MILITARY GUARD POSTED THERE. FOR A MOMENT IT HESITATED...

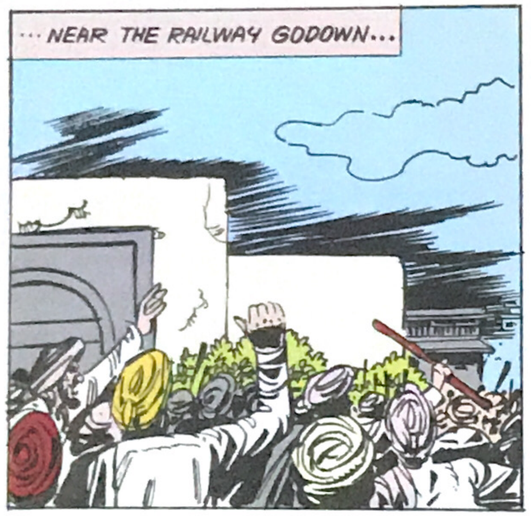
...BUT THEN BEGAN TO MOVE FORWARD. SOME PEOPLE BEGAN TO THROW STONES AT THE MILITARY GUARD.
LET US PASS.
WE WANT TO MEET THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER!

THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, MR PLOMER, WAS IN CHARGE OF THIS PICKET.
STAND BACK! WE WILL FIRE ONLY IF YOU DISOBEY MY ORDER!


SOME LAWYERS IMMEDIATELY CALLED OUT—
PLEASE DO NOT FIRE, SIR!
WE WILL LEAD THE PEOPLE BACK TO THE TOWN.

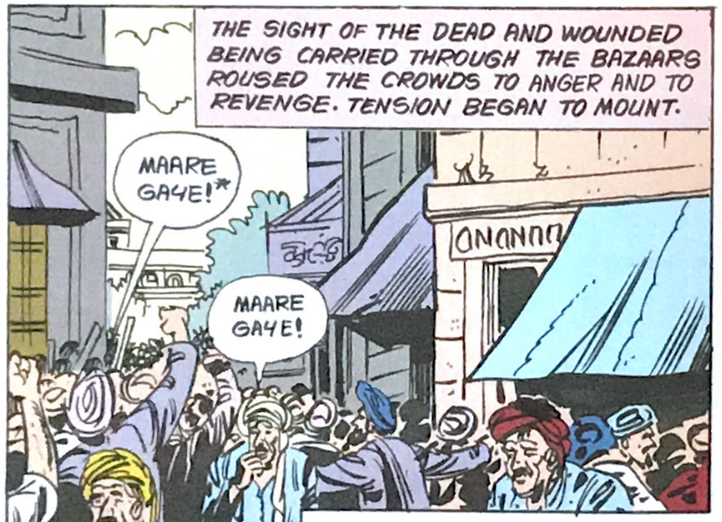
BY 12·30 P.M. ON APRIL 10, CROWDS WERE TO BE SEEN EVERYWHERE. ON THE CARRIAGE-BRIDGE...


...ON THE FOOT-BRIDGE...


...NEAR THE RAILWAY GODOWN...

...IN AITCHINSON PARK...

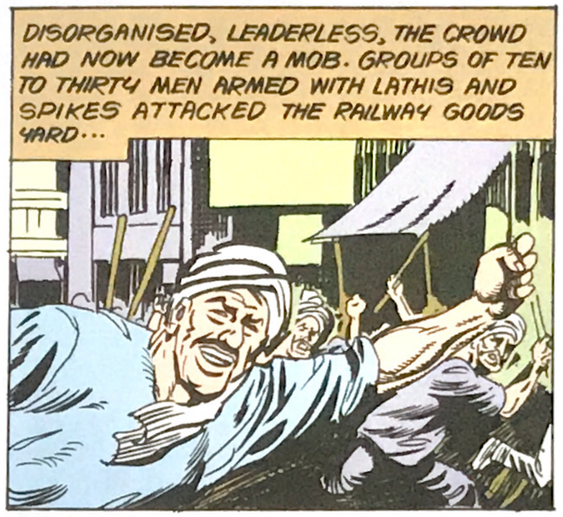
...AND STREAMING THROUGH HALL GATE, HATHI GATE AND LOHGARH GATE...


THE SIGHT OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED BEING CARRIED THROUGH THE BAZAARS ROUSED THE CROWDS TO ANGER AND TO REVENGE. TENSION BEGAN TO MOUNT.
MAARE GAYE!*
MAARE GAYE!

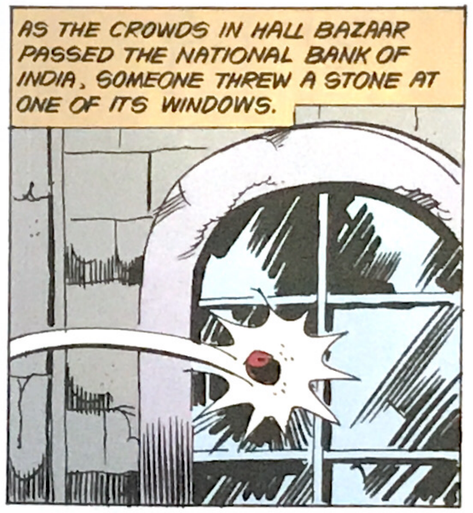
YES, HE'S DEAD!
KILLED BY THE SAHIBS!

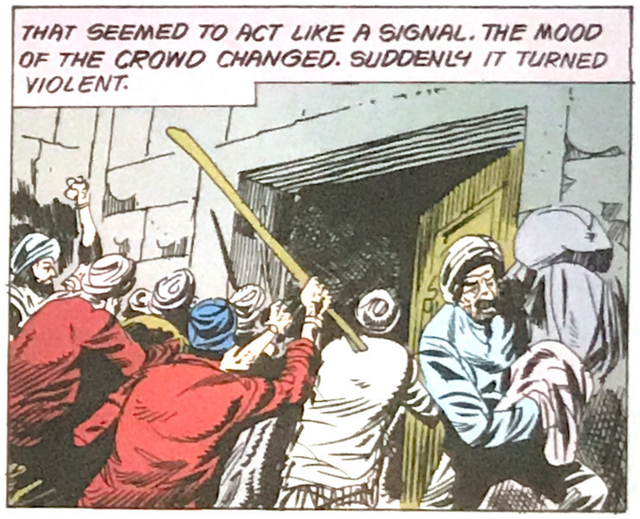
WE WILL KILL THE SAHIBS!

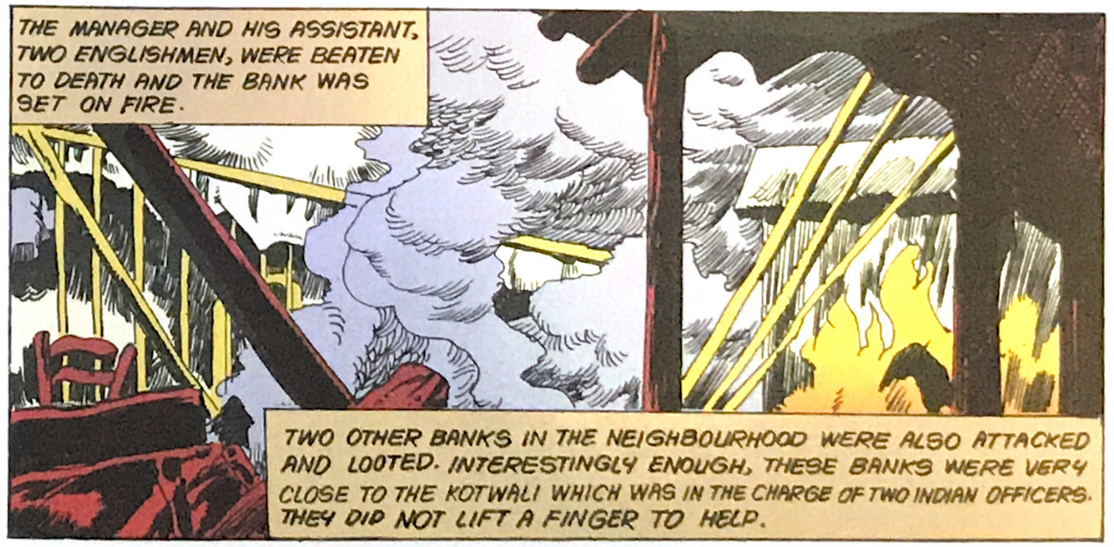
* KILLED

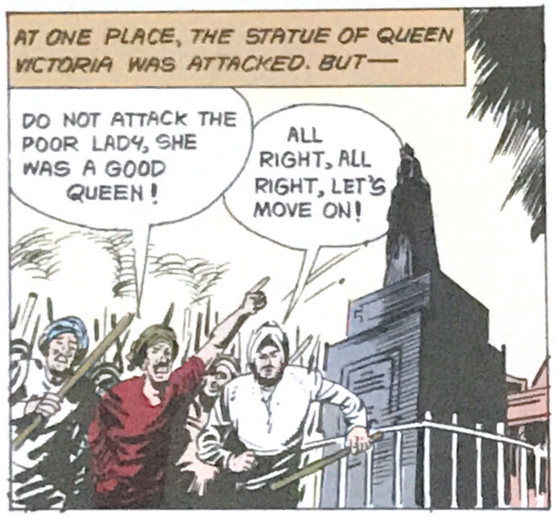

DISORGANISED, LEADERLESS, THE CROWD HAD NOW BECOME A MOB. GROUPS OF TEN TO THIRTY MEN ARMED WITH LATHIS AND SPIKES ATTACKED THE RAILWAY GOODS YARD...

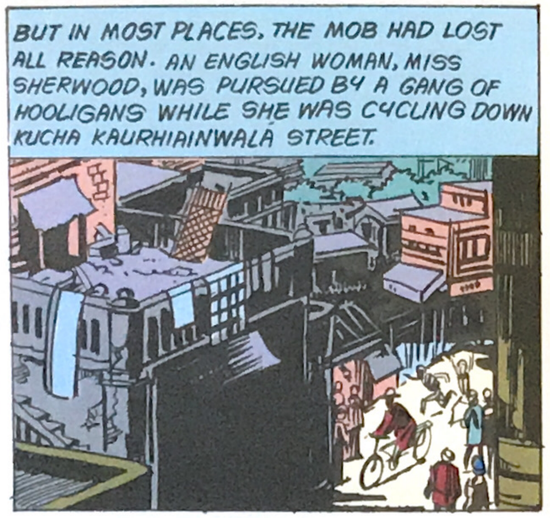
...AND THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

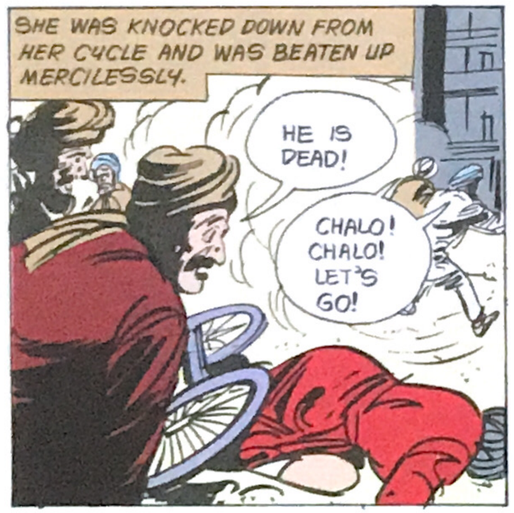

AS THE CROWDS IN HALL BAZAAR PASSED THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, SOMEONE THREW A STONE AT ONE OF ITS WINDOWS.

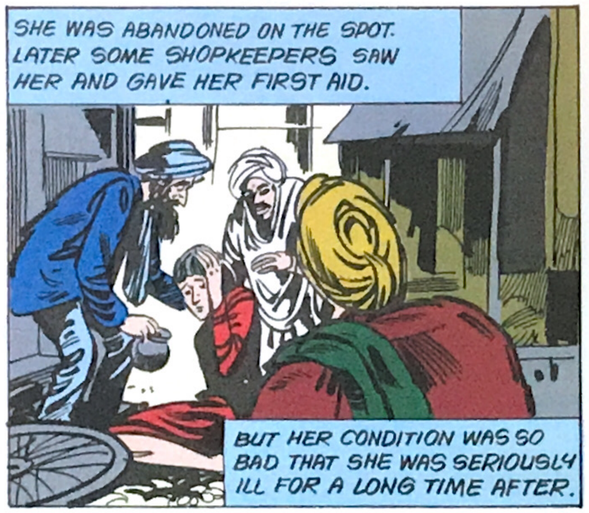

THAT SEEMED TO ACT LIKE A SIGNAL. THE MOOD OF THE CROWD CHANGED. SUDDENLY IT TURNED VIOLENT.

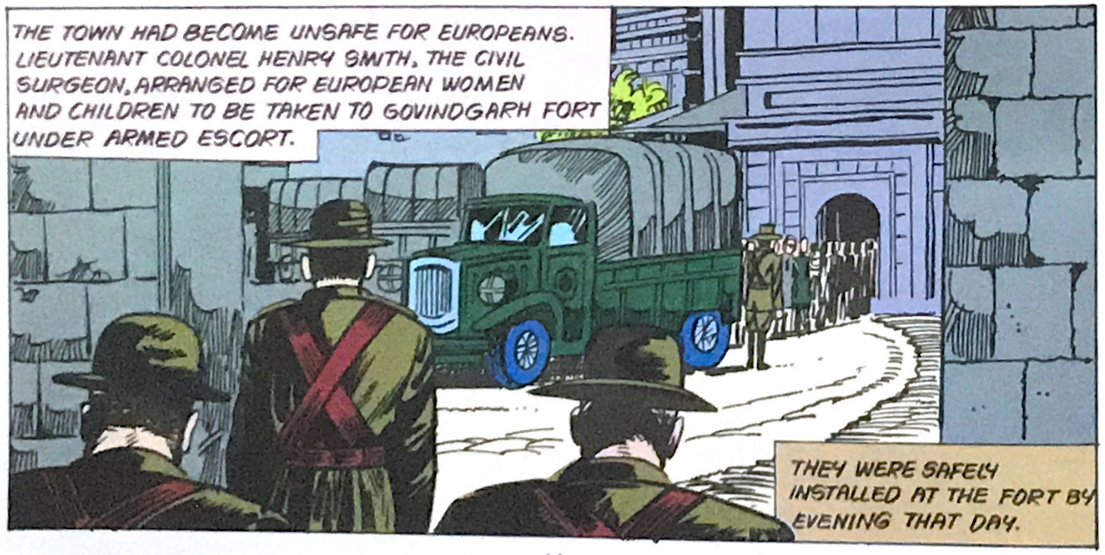

THE MANAGER AND HIS ASSISTANT, TWO ENGLISHMEN, WERE BEATEN TO DEATH AND THE BANK WAS SET ON FIRE.
TWO OTHER BANKS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WERE ALSO ATTACKED AND LOOTED. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THESE BANKS WERE VERY CLOSE TO THE KOTWALI WHICH WAS IN THE CHARGE OF TWO INDIAN OFFICERS. THEY DID NOT LIFT A FINGER TO HELP.

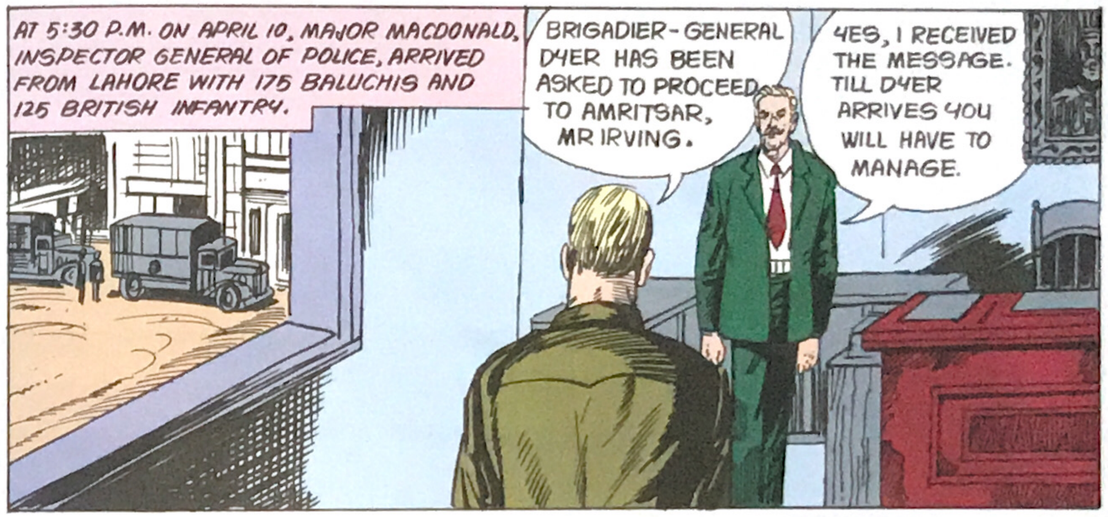


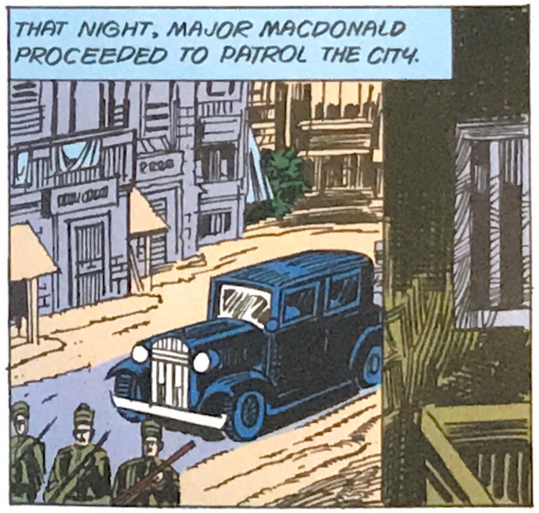


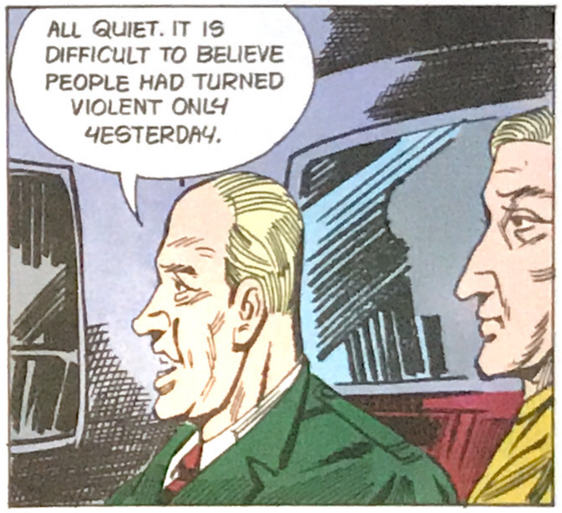


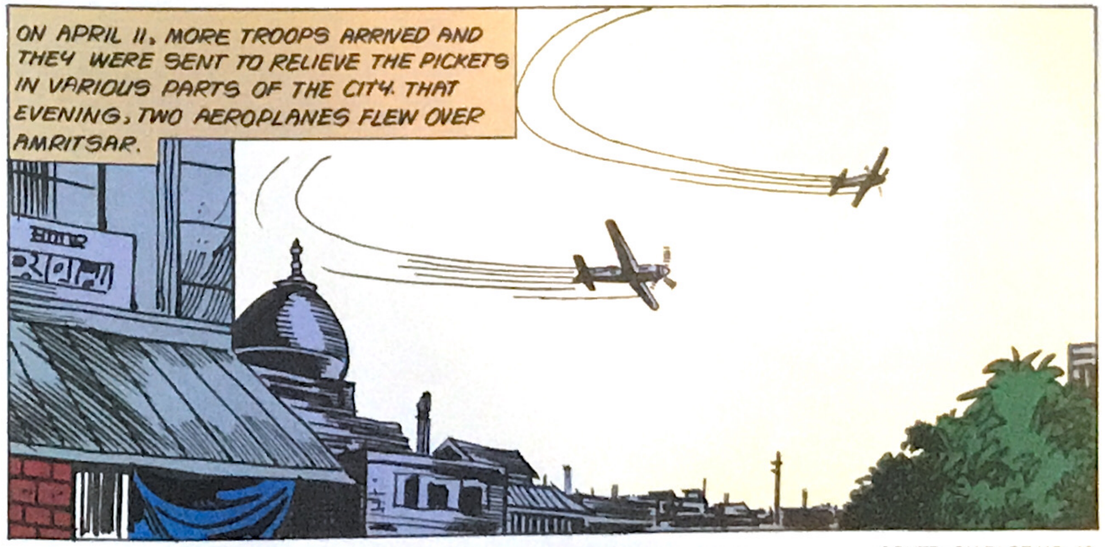












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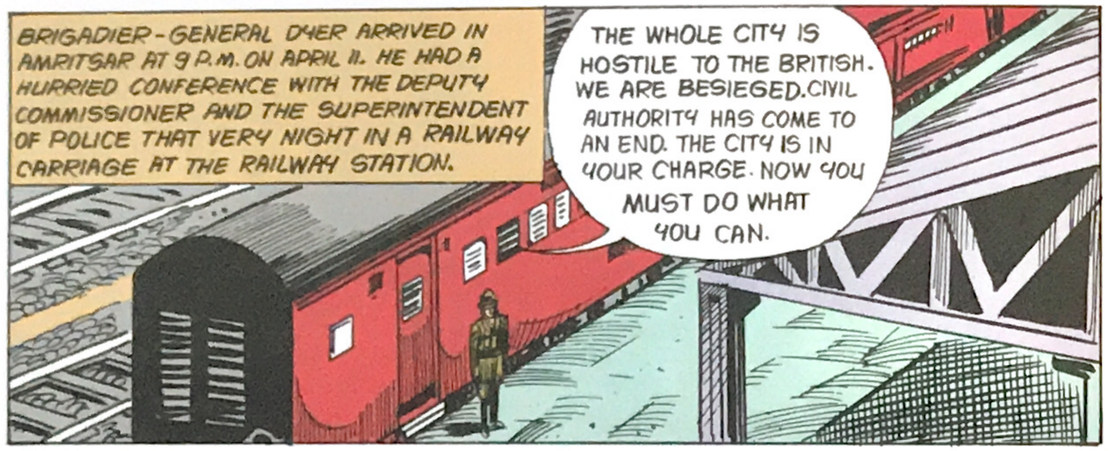
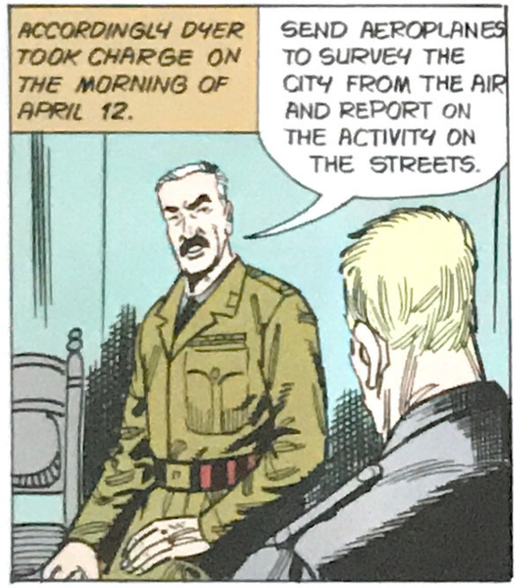
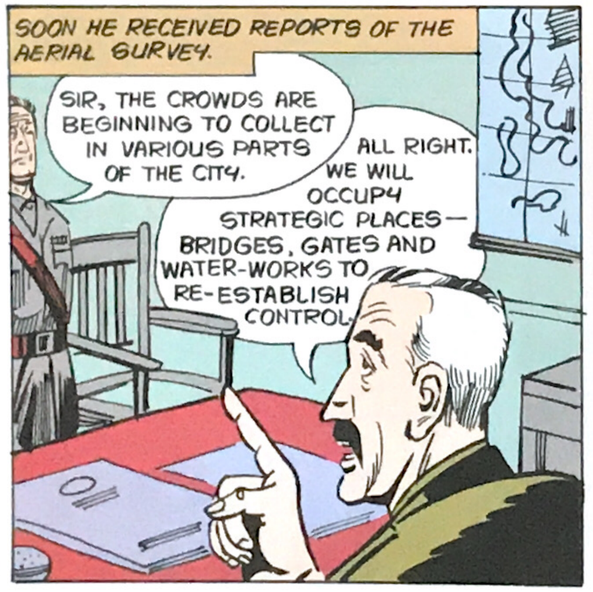
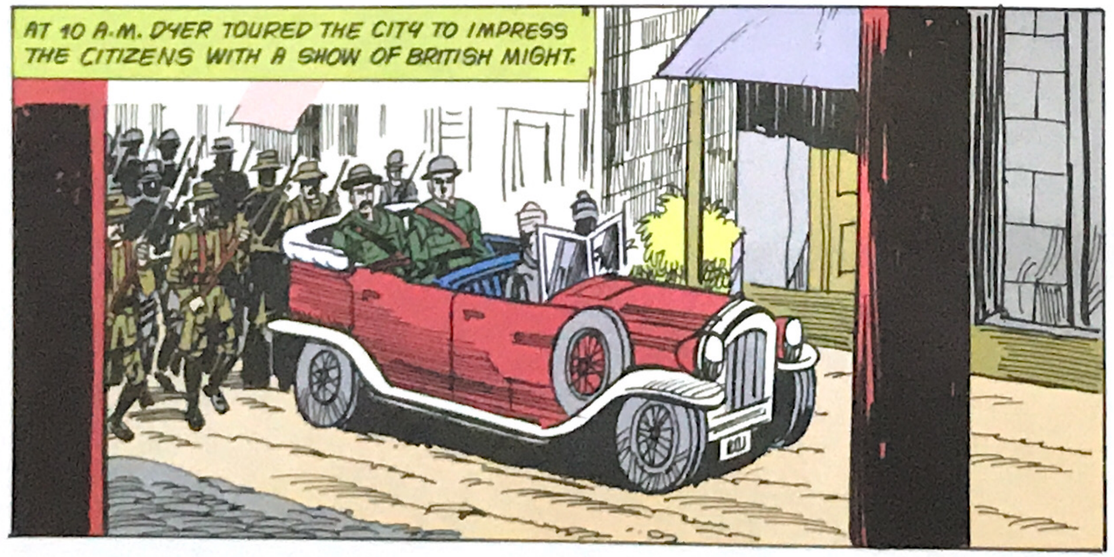
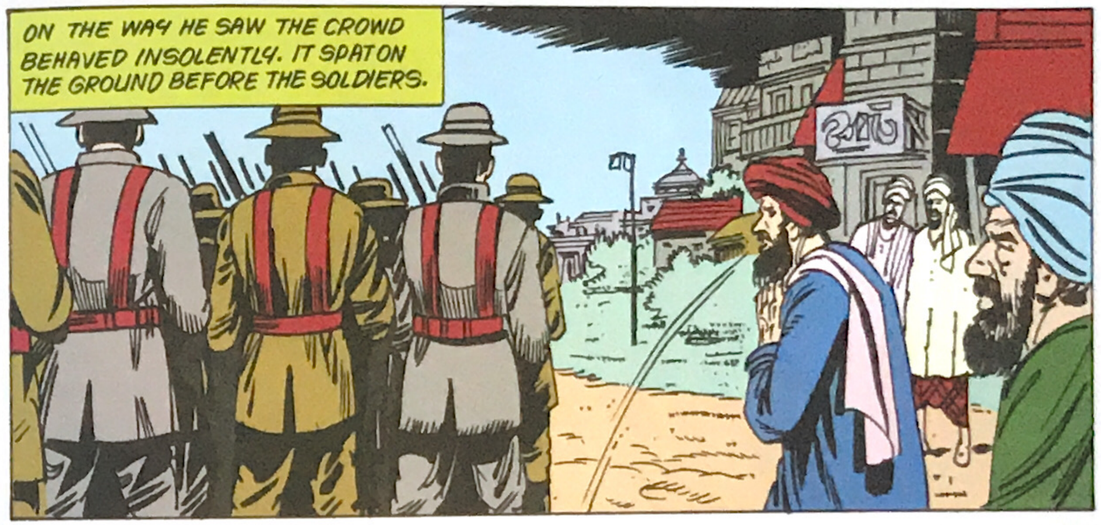

BRIGADIER-GENERAL DYER ARRIVED IN AMRITSAR AT 9 P.M. ON APRIL 11. HE HAD A HURRIED CONFERENCE WITH THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE THAT VERY NIGHT IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE AT THE RAILWAY STATION.
THE WHOLE CITY IS HOSTILE TO THE BRITISH. WE ARE BESIEGED. CIVIL AUTHORITY HAS COME TO AN END. THE CITY IS IN YOUR CHARGE. NOW YOU MUST DO WHAT YOU CAN.

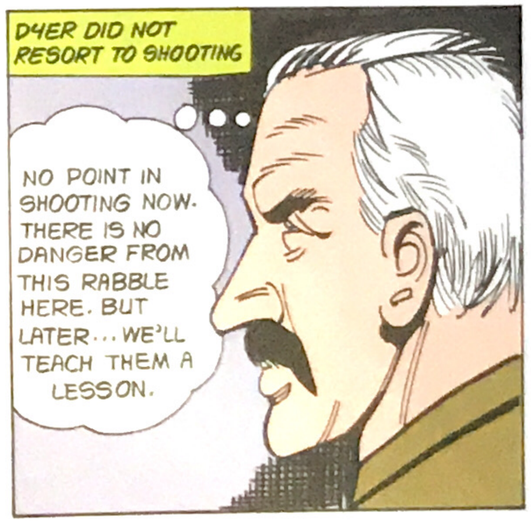

ACCORDINGLY DYER TOOK CHARGE ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 12.
SEND AEROPLANES TO SURVEY THE CITY FROM THE AIR AND REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY ON THE STREETS.

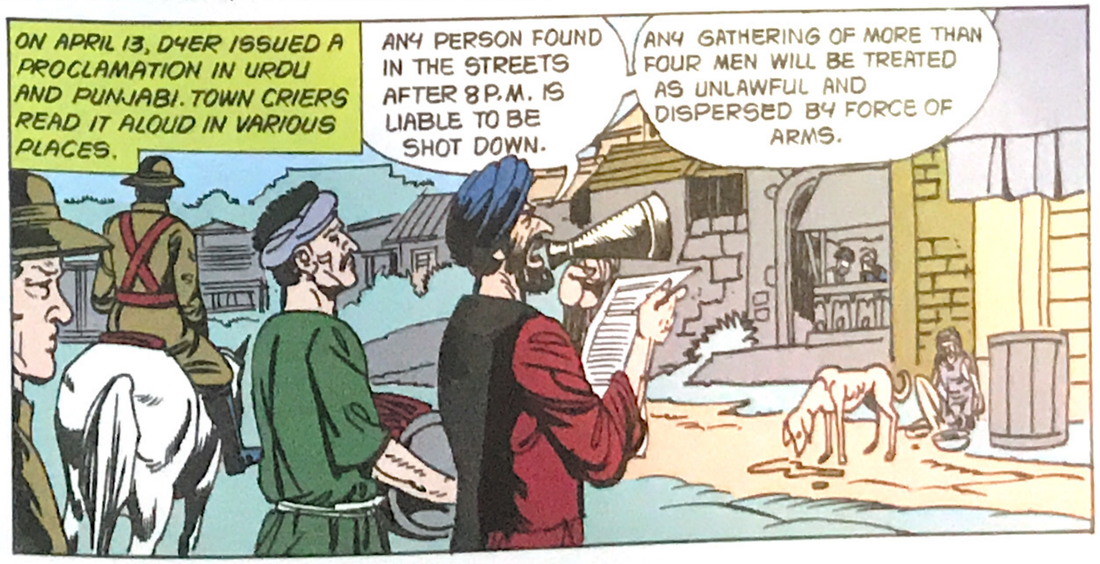

SOON HE RECEIVED REPORTS OF THE AERIAL SURVEY.
SIR, THE CROWDS ARE BEGINNING TO COLLECT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY.
ALL RIGHT. WE WILL OCCUPY STRATEGIC PLACES— BRIDGES, GATES AND WATER-WORKS TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTROL.


AT 10 A.M. DYER TOURED THE CITY TO IMPRESS THE CITIZENS WITH A SHOW OF BRITISH MIGHT.

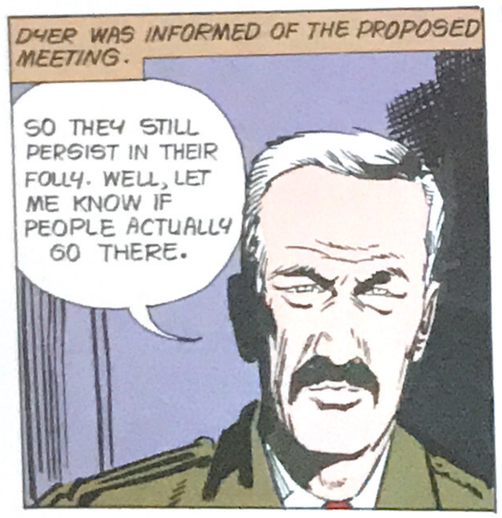

ON THE WAY HE SAW THE CROWD BEHAVED INSOLENTLY. IT SPAT ON THE GROUND BEFORE THE SOLDIERS.

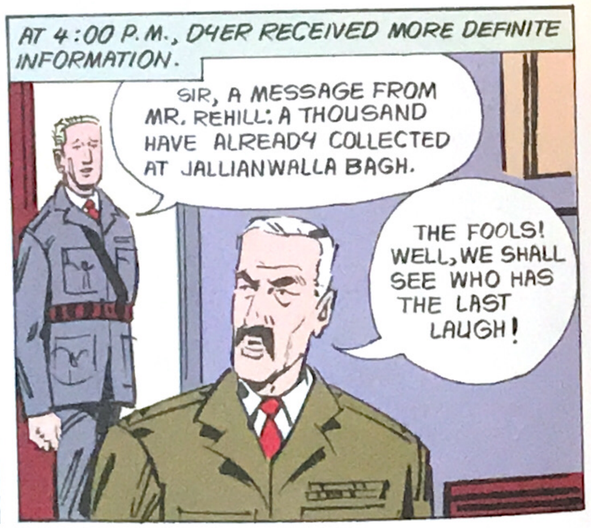
IN UNITY LIES OUR STRENGTH!
HINDU-MUSALMAN KI JAI!

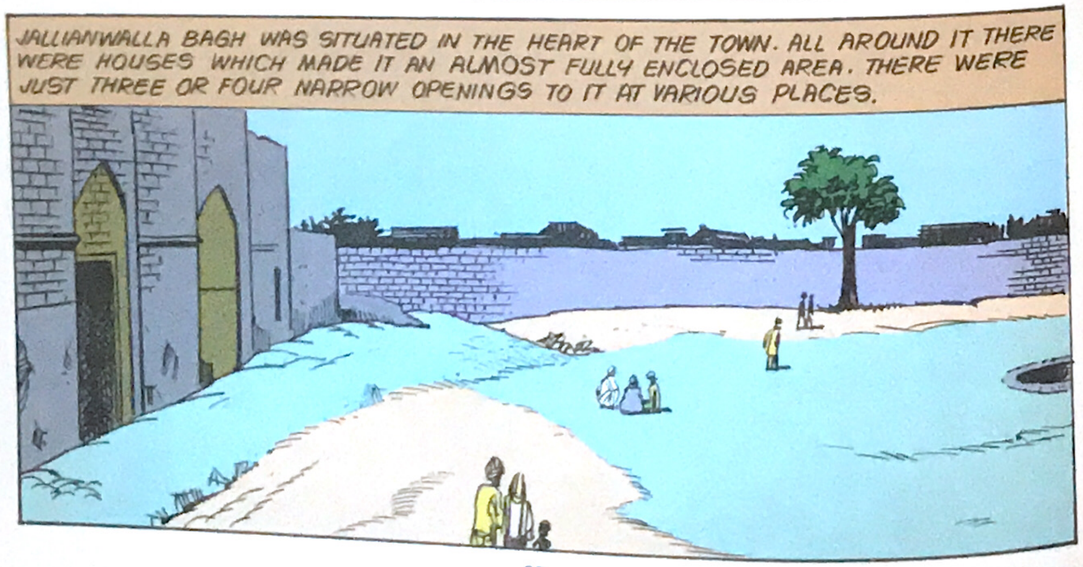

DYER DID NOT RESORT TO SHOOTING
NO POINT IN SHOOTING NOW. THERE IS NO DANGER FROM THIS RABBLE HERE. BUT LATER... WE'LL TEACH THEM A LESSON.


ON APRIL 13, DYER ISSUED A PROCLAMATION IN URDU AND PUNJABI. TOWN CRIERS READ IT ALOUD IN VARIOUS PLACES.
ANY PERSON FOUND IN THE STREETS AFTER 8 P.M. IS LIABLE TO BE SHOT DOWN.
ANY GATHERING OF MORE THAN FOUR MEN WILL BE TREATED AS UNLAWFUL AND DISPERSED BY FORCE OF ARMS.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS TWO MEN WENT ROUND THE CITY BANGING AN EMPTY TIN AND CALLING OUT—
A MEETING WILL BE HELD AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH AT 4:30 P.M. ALL ARE WELCOME.
MESSAGES FROM KITCHLEWJI AND SATYAPALJI WILL BE READ OUT!

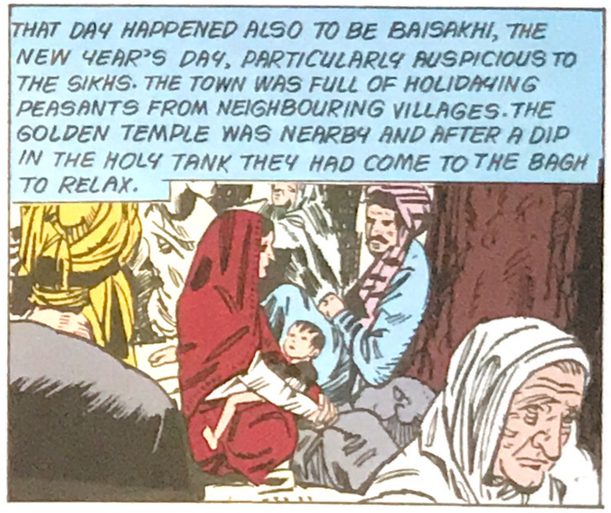

DYER WAS INFORMED OF THE PROPOSED MEETING.
SO THEY STILL PERSIST IN THEIR FOLLY. WELL, LET ME KNOW IF PEOPLE ACTUALLY GO THERE.

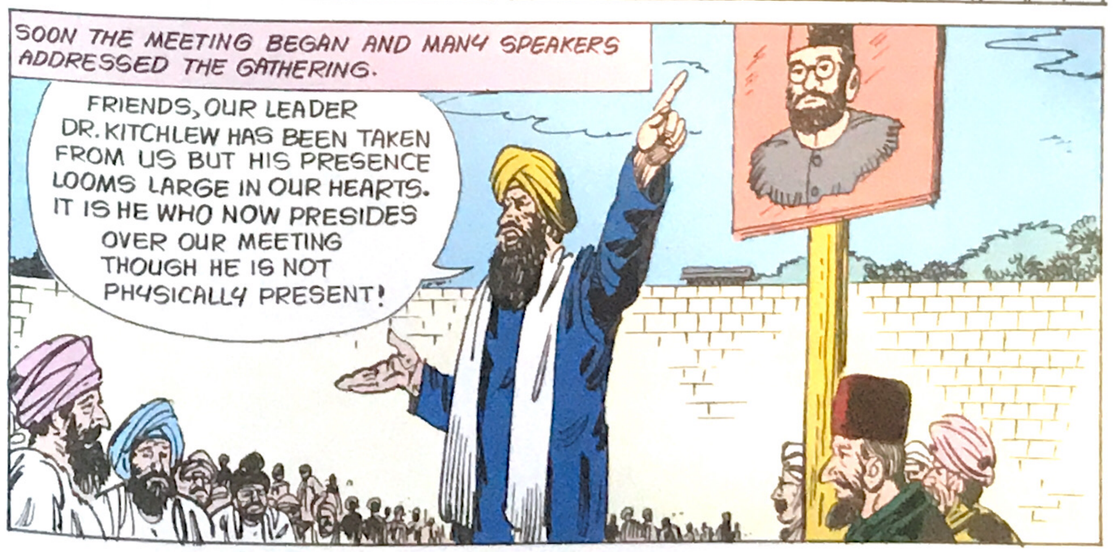

AT 4:00 P.M., DYER RECEIVED MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION.
SIR, A MESSAGE FROM MR. REHILL: A THOUSAND HAVE ALREADY COLLECTED AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH.
THE FOOLS! WELL, WE SHALL SEE WHO HAS THE LAST LAUGH!


JALLIANWALLA BAGH WAS SITUATED IN THE HEART OF THE TOWN. ALL AROUND IT THERE WERE HOUSES WHICH MADE IT AN ALMOST FULLY ENCLOSED AREA. THERE WERE JUST THREE OR FOUR NARROW OPENINGS TO IT AT VARIOUS PLACES.

EVEN AS DYER RECEIVED REHILL'S MESSAGE, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE BEGAN TO POUR INTO THE BAGH THROUGH A NARROW PASSAGE, ITS MAIN ENTRANCE.
ARRE BHAI! THAT'S ALL BLUFF. WHY SHOULD THERE BE TROUBLE? WE ARE JUST PEACEFUL CITIZENS. HAVEN'T WE ANY RIGHTS?
I HOPE THERE WILL BE NO TROUBLE AT THE MEETING. THEY SAY THE MILITARY HAVE MADE A LOT OF PREPARATIONS!

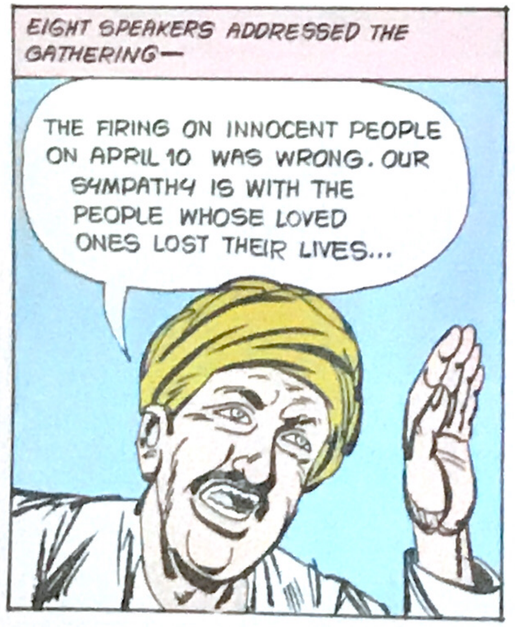
SOON THE CROWD SWELLED INTO A BIG GATHERING. THERE WERE TEENAGED BOYS AND CHILDREN.
LET US HEAR THE MESSAGES OUR LEADERS HAVE SENT TO US.
KITCHLEWJI KI JAI!
SATYAPALJI KI JAI!


THAT DAY HAPPENED ALSO TO BE BAISAKHI, THE NEW YEAR'S DAY, PARTICULARLY AUSPICIOUS TO THE SIKHS. THE TOWN WAS FULL OF HOLIDAYING PEASANTS FROM NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES. THE GOLDEN TEMPLE WAS NEARBY AND AFTER A DIP IN THE HOLY TANK THEY HAD COME TO THE BAGH TO RELAX.

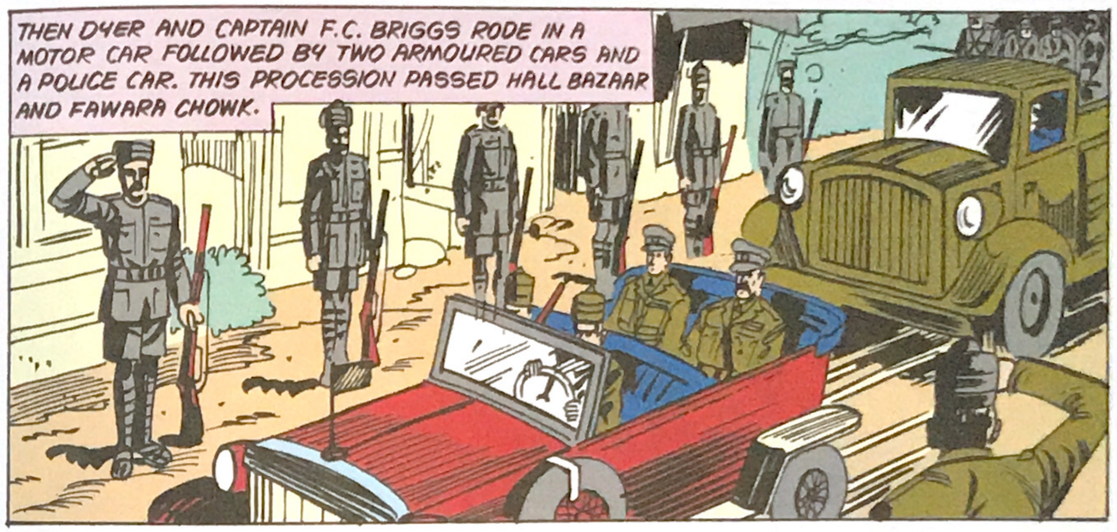

SOON THE MEETING BEGAN AND MANY SPEAKERS ADDRESSED THE GATHERING.
FRIENDS, OUR LEADER DR. KITCHLEW HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM US BUT HIS PRESENCE LOOMS LARGE IN OUR HEARTS. IT IS HE WHO NOW PRESIDES OVER OUR MEETING THOUGH HE IS NOT PHYSICALLY PRESENT!

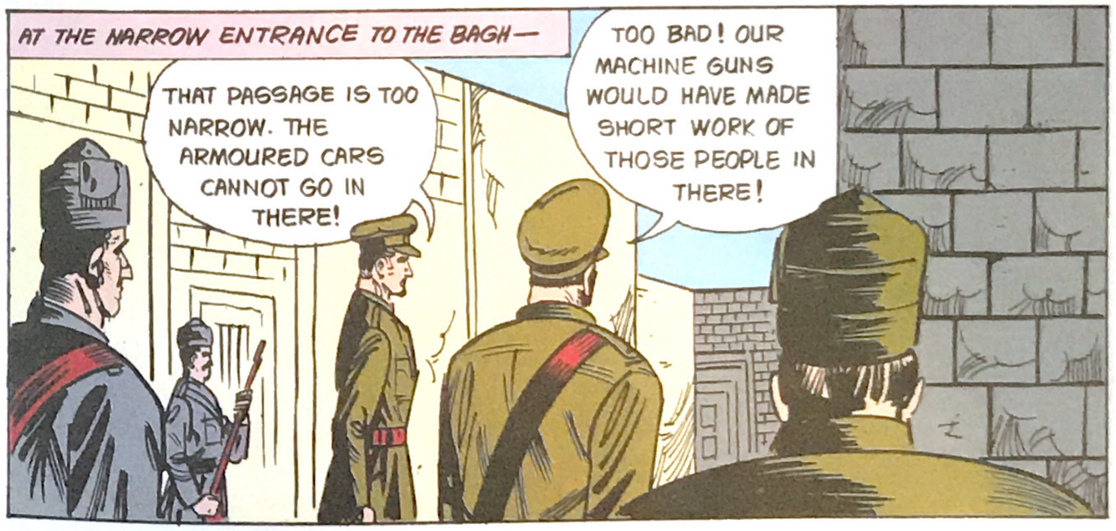
SUDDENLY—
AN AEROPLANE!

PEOPLE PANICKED, BUT A POLITICAL WORKER REASSURED THE CROWD.
SIT DOWN! SIT DOWN! DON'T PANIC! THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY. THE PLANE IS DOING ITS WORK AND WE WILL CONTINUE OURS.
THE CROWD QUIETENED DOWN.

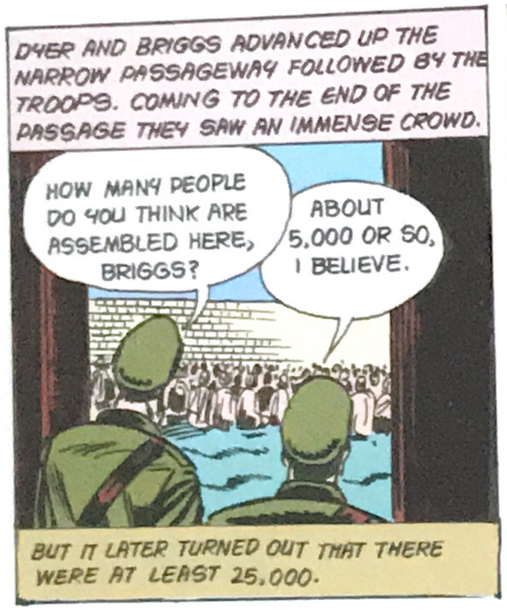

EIGHT SPEAKERS ADDRESSED THE GATHERING—
THE FIRING ON INNOCENT PEOPLE ON APRIL 10 WAS WRONG. OUR SYMPATHY IS WITH THE PEOPLE WHOSE LOVED ONES LOST THEIR LIVES...

MEANWHILE, DYER HAD ASSEMBLED A STRIKING FORCE OF NINETY MEN. AT 4:15 P.M. IT WAS SENT TO JALLIANWALLA BAGH.


THEN DYER AND CAPTAIN F.C. BRIGGS RODE IN A MOTOR CAR FOLLOWED BY TWO ARMOURED CARS AND A POLICE CAR. THIS PROCESSION PASSED HALL BAZAAR AND FAWARA CHOWK.


AT THE NARROW ENTRANCE TO THE BAGH—
THAT PASSAGE IS TOO NARROW. THE ARMOURED CARS CANNOT GO IN THERE!
TOO BAD! OUR MACHINE GUNS WOULD HAVE MADE SHORT WORK OF THOSE PEOPLE IN THERE!

HOWEVER, OUR ARMED TROOPS WILL PROBABLY DO JUST AS WELL!

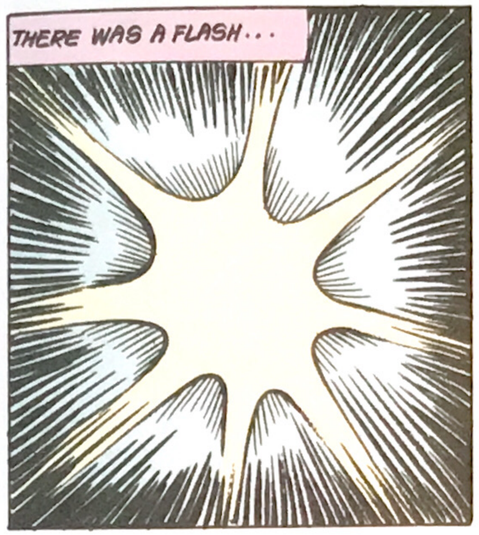

DYER AND BRIGGS ADVANCED UP THE NARROW PASSAGEWAY FOLLOWED BY THE TROOPS. COMING TO THE END OF THE PASSAGE THEY SAW AN IMMENSE CROWD.
HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU THINK ARE ASSEMBLED HERE, BRIGGS?
ABOUT 5,000 OR SO, I BELIEVE.
BUT IT LATER TURNED OUT THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST 25,000.

WITHIN 30 SECONDS DYER DEPLOYED HIS TROOPS— THE GURKHAS TO THE LEFT, AND THE BALUCHIS TO THE RIGHT.

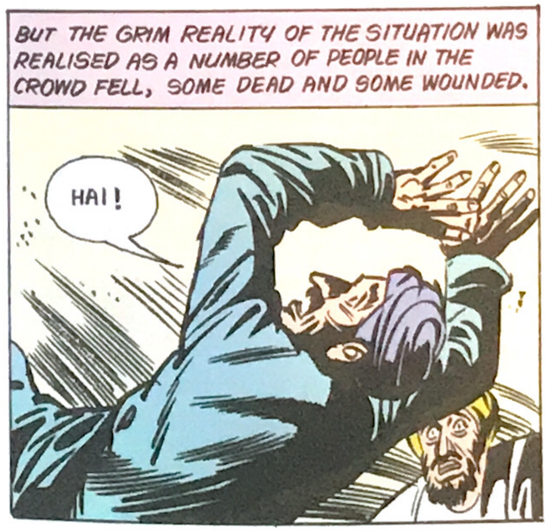
AROUND 5:15, THE NINTH SPEAKER, DURGA DAS VAID, THE EDITOR OF WAQT, WAS SPEAKING.
...THE REPRESSIVE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT...

HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY ALARMED SHOUTS.
THEY HAVE COME! THEY HAVE COME!
OH, GOD!
ARMED SOLDIERS!

SECONDS LATER, GENERAL DYER GAVE THE ORDER—
FIRE!

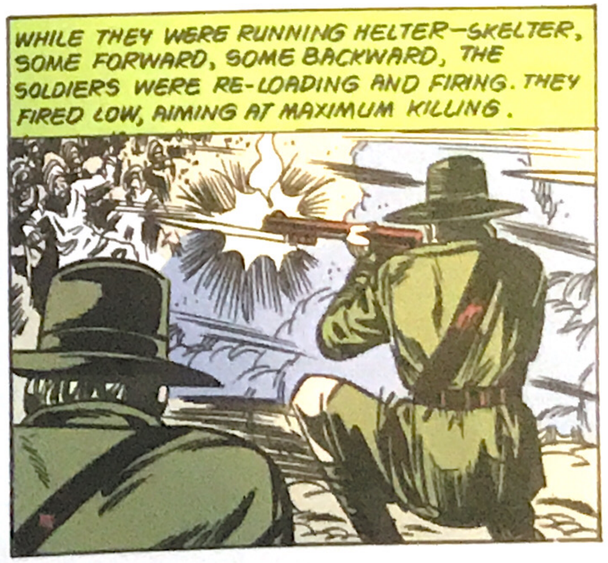

THERE WAS A FLASH...

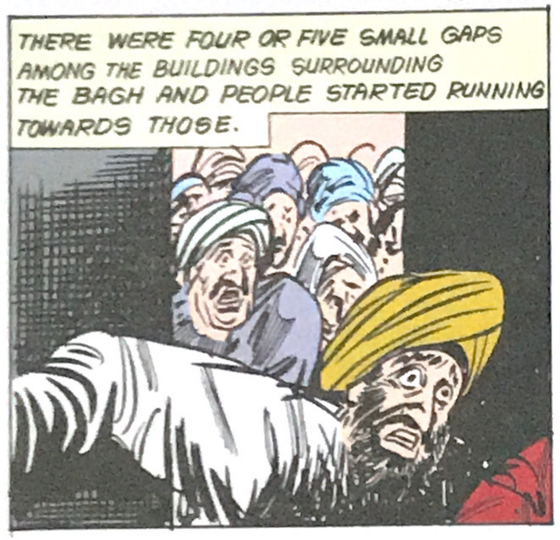
...BUT THE PEOPLE JUST COULD NOT BELIEVE THEIR EYES.
HO! HO! BLANK SHOTS!
THOSE WERE BLANK SHOTS!


BUT THE GRIM REALITY OF THE SITUATION WAS REALISED AS A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CROWD FELL, SOME DEAD AND SOME WOUNDED.
HAI!

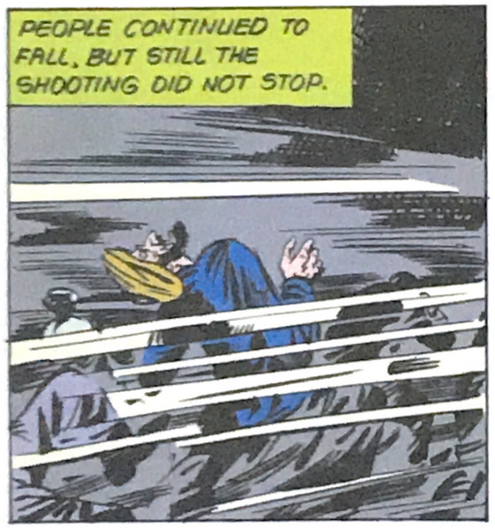
BLINDLY SOME PEOPLE BEGAN TO RUN.

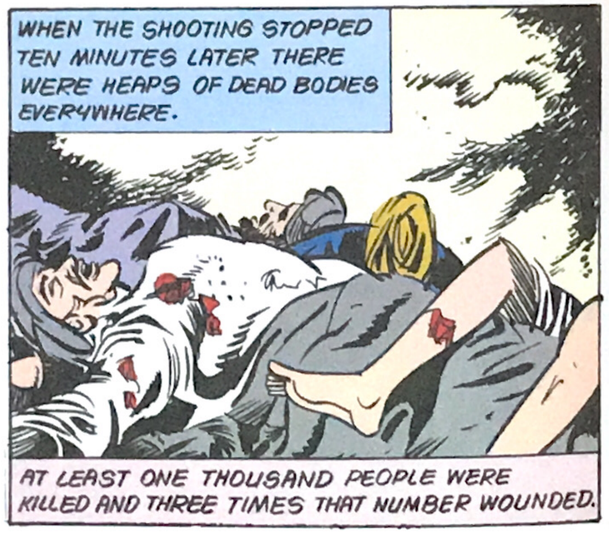
BUT WHERE COULD THEY GO? THE SOLDIERS WITH THEIR GUNS WERE AT THE ENTRANCE.


WHILE THEY WERE RUNNING HELTER-SKELTER, SOME FORWARD, SOME BACKWARD, THE SOLDIERS WERE RE-LOADING AND FIRING. THEY FIRED LOW, AIMING AT MAXIMUM KILLING.

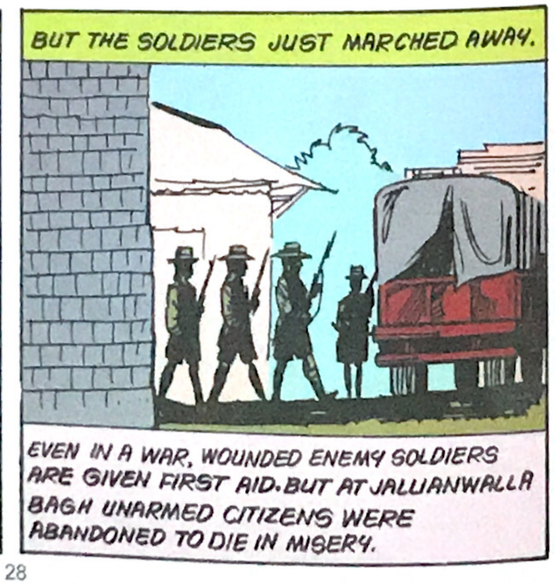

THERE WERE FOUR OR FIVE SMALL GAPS AMONG THE BUILDINGS SURROUNDING THE BAGH AND PEOPLE STARTED RUNNING TOWARDS THOSE.

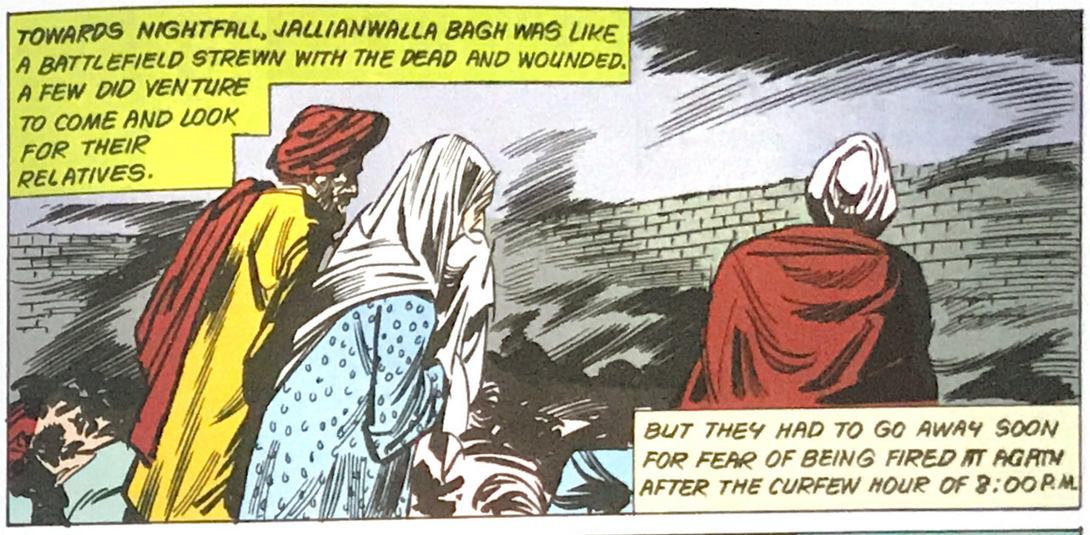
ON DYER'S ORDER THE GUNS WERE DIRECTED STRAIGHT AT THE NARROW GAPS THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE.

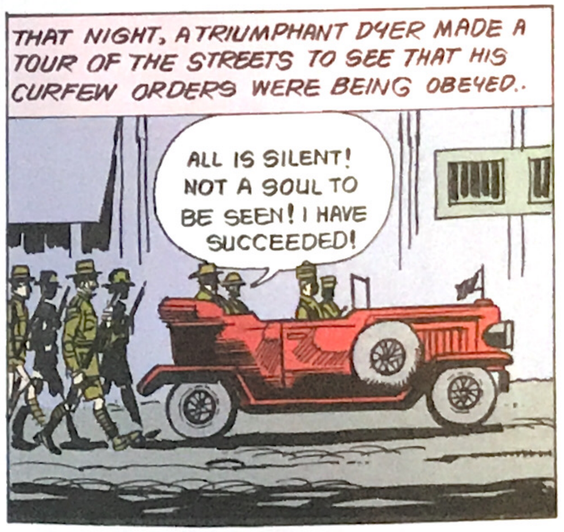

PEOPLE CONTINUED TO FALL, BUT STILL THE SHOOTING DID NOT STOP.

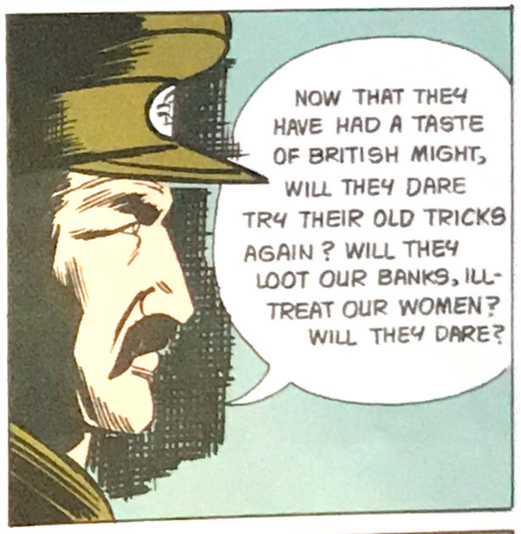

WHEN THE SHOOTING STOPPED TEN MINUTES LATER THERE WERE HEAPS OF DEAD BODIES EVERYWHERE.
AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND THREE TIMES THAT NUMBER WOUNDED.

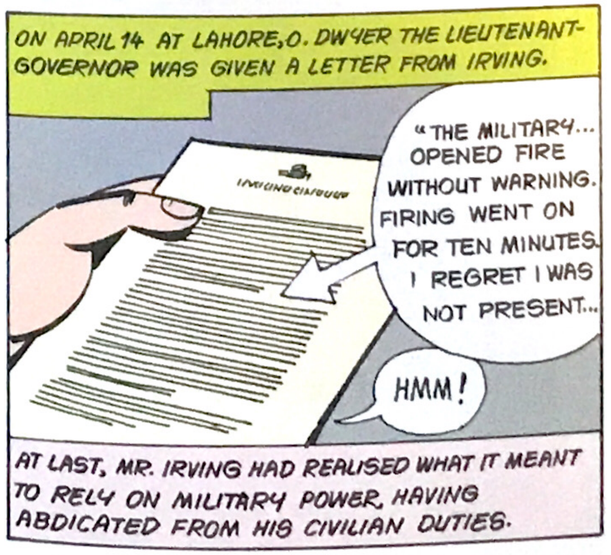
THE WOUNDED CRIED OUT.
WATER!
WATER!

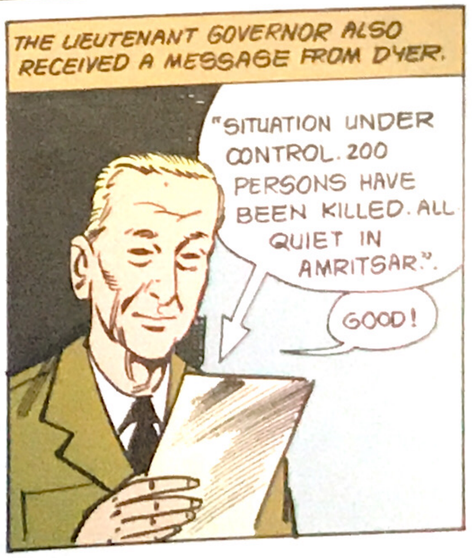

BUT THE SOLDIERS JUST MARCHED AWAY.
EVEN IN A WAR, WOUNDED ENEMY SOLDIERS ARE GIVEN FIRST AID. BUT AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH UNARMED CITIZENS WERE ABANDONED TO DIE IN MISERY.

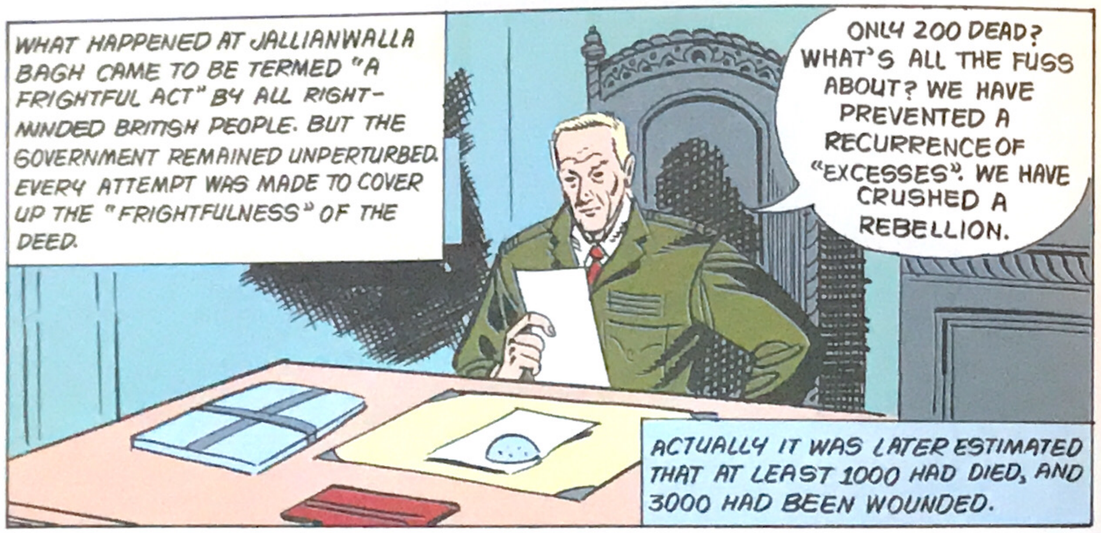

TOWARDS NIGHTFALL, JALLIANWALLA BAGH WAS LIKE A BATTLEFIELD STREWN WITH THE DEAD AND WOUNDED. A FEW DID VENTURE TO COME AND LOOK FOR THEIR RELATIVES.
BUT THEY HAD TO GO AWAY SOON FOR FEAR OF BEING FIRED AT AGAIN AFTER THE CURFEW HOUR OF 8:00 P.M.


THAT NIGHT, A TRIUMPHANT DYER MADE A TOUR OF THE STREETS TO SEE THAT HIS CURFEW ORDERS WERE BEING OBEYED..
ALL IS SILENT! NOT A SOUL TO BE SEEN! I HAVE SUCCEEDED!

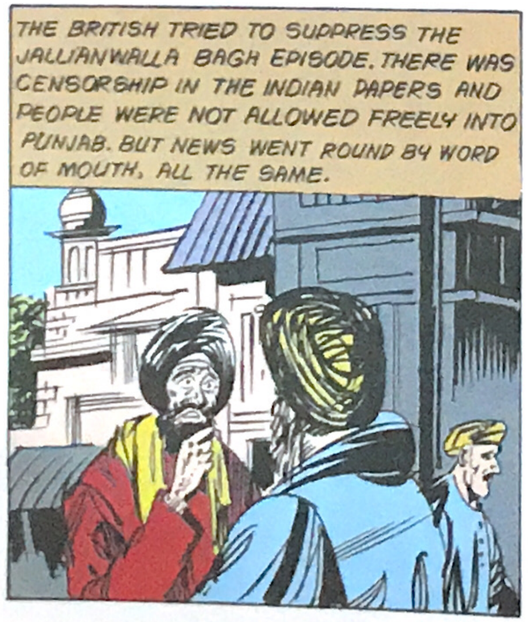

NOW THAT THEY HAVE HAD A TASTE OF BRITISH MIGHT, WILL THEY DARE TRY THEIR OLD TRICKS AGAIN? WILL THEY LOOT OUR BANKS, ILL-TREAT OUR WOMEN? WILL THEY DARE?

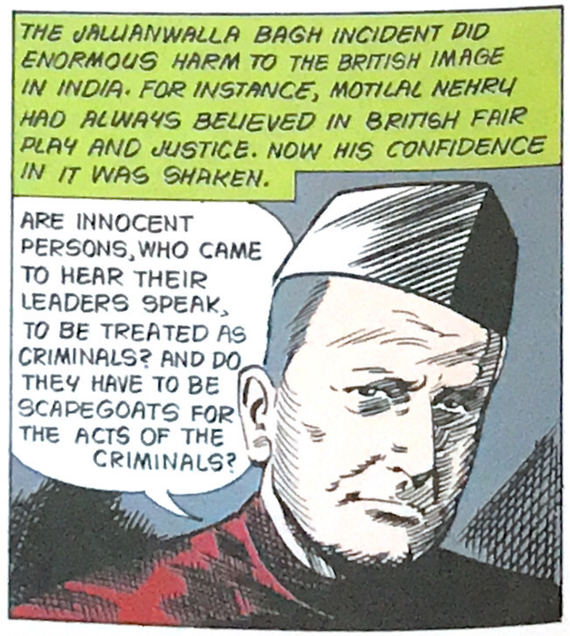

ON APRIL 14 AT LAHORE, O. DWYER THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR WAS GIVEN A LETTER FROM IRVING.
"THE MILITARY... OPENED FIRE WITHOUT WARNING. FIRING WENT ON FOR TEN MINUTES. I REGRET I WAS NOT PRESENT...
HMM!
AT LAST, MR. IRVING HAD REALISED WHAT IT MEANT TO RELY ON MILITARY POWER, HAVING ABDICATED FROM HIS CIVILIAN DUTIES.

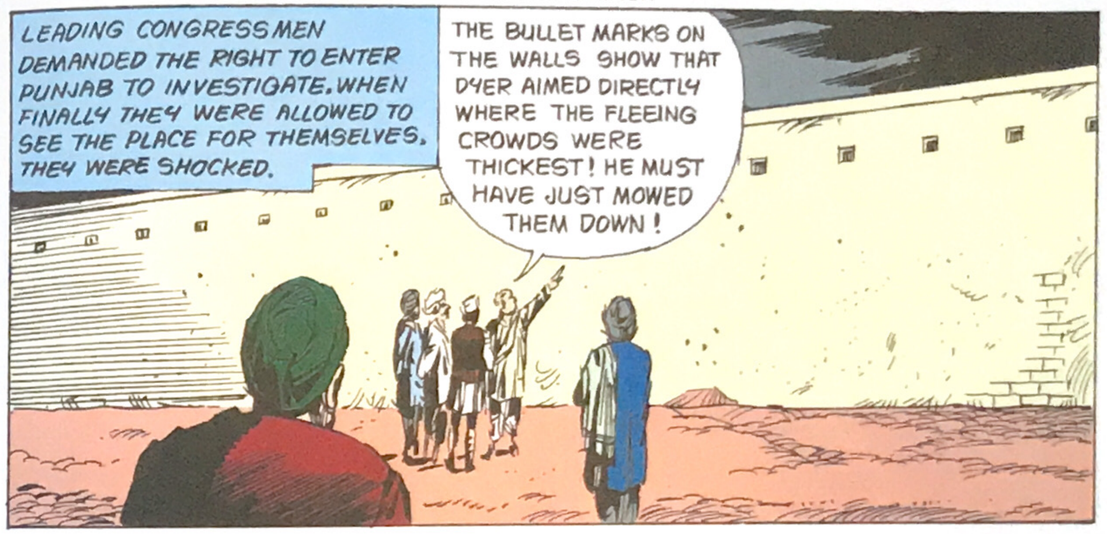

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ALSO RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM DYER.
"SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. 200 PERSONS HAVE BEEN KILLED. ALL QUIET IN AMRITSAR".
GOOD!

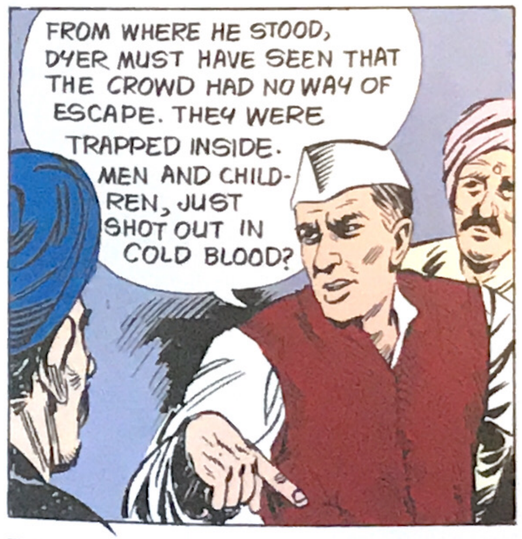

WHAT HAPPENED AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH CAME TO BE TERMED "A FRIGHTFUL ACT" BY ALL RIGHT-MINDED BRITISH PEOPLE. BUT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED UNPERTURBED. EVERY ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO COVER UP THE "FRIGHTFULNESS" OF THE DEED.
ONLY 200 DEAD? WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT? WE HAVE PREVENTED A RECURRENCE OF "EXCESSES". WE HAVE CRUSHED A REBELLION.
ACTUALLY IT WAS LATER ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 1000 HAD DIED, AND 3000 HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

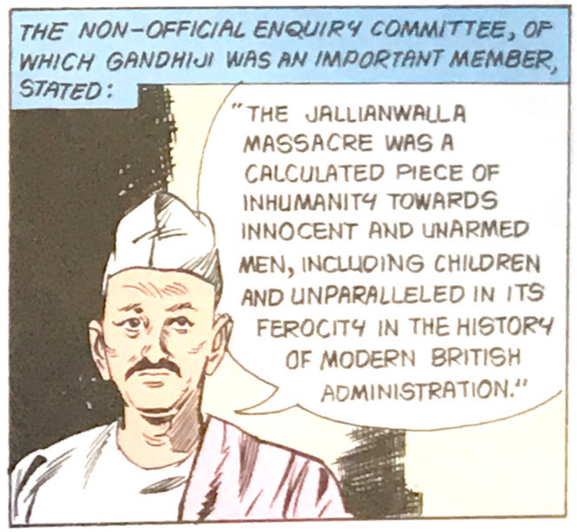
MANY SENIOR BRITISH OFFICIALS APPROVED OF DYER'S ACTION.
THE WISDOM OF GENERAL DYER'S ACTION HAS BEEN FULLY PROVED BY THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER TROUBLE OF ANY SORT IN AMRITSAR.
DYER HAS AVERTED SOMETHING LIKE A GENERAL REBELLION THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF NORTHERN INDIA!

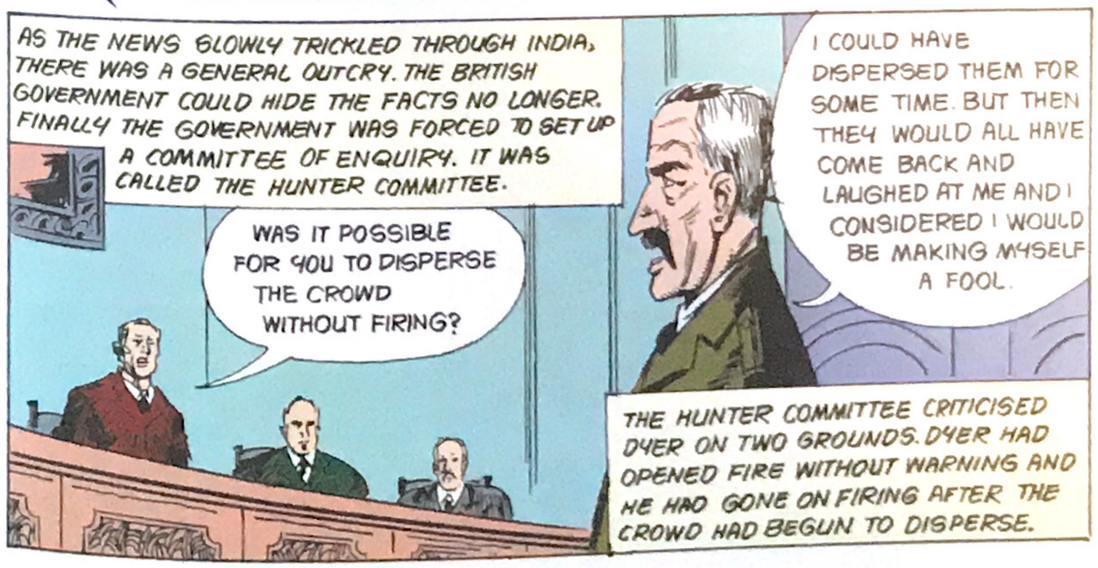

THE BRITISH TRIED TO SUPPRESS THE JALLIANWALLA BAGH EPISODE. THERE WAS CENSORSHIP IN THE INDIAN PAPERS AND PEOPLE WERE NOT ALLOWED FREELY INTO PUNJAB. BUT NEWS WENT ROUND BY WORD OF MOUTH, ALL THE SAME.


THE JALLIANWALLA BAGH INCIDENT DID ENORMOUS HARM TO THE BRITISH IMAGE IN INDIA. FOR INSTANCE, MOTILAL NEHRU HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED IN BRITISH FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE. NOW HIS CONFIDENCE IN IT WAS SHAKEN.
ARE INNOCENT PERSONS, WHO CAME TO HEAR THEIR LEADERS SPEAK, TO BE TREATED AS CRIMINALS? AND DO THEY HAVE TO BE SCAPEGOATS FOR THE ACTS OF THE CRIMINALS?


LEADING CONGRESS MEN DEMANDED THE RIGHT TO ENTER PUNJAB TO INVESTIGATE. WHEN FINALLY THEY WERE ALLOWED TO SEE THE PLACE FOR THEMSELVES, THEY WERE SHOCKED.
THE BULLET MARKS ON THE WALLS SHOW THAT DYER AIMED DIRECTLY WHERE THE FLEEING CROWDS WERE THICKEST! HE MUST HAVE JUST MOWED THEM DOWN!


FROM WHERE HE STOOD, DYER MUST HAVE SEEN THAT THE CROWD HAD NO WAY OF ESCAPE. THEY WERE TRAPPED INSIDE. MEN AND CHILDREN, JUST SHOT OUT IN COLD BLOOD?


THE NON-OFFICIAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE, OF WHICH GANDHIJI WAS AN IMPORTANT MEMBER, STATED:
"THE JALLIANWALLA MASSACRE WAS A CALCULATED PIECE OF INHUMANITY TOWARDS INNOCENT AND UNARMED MEN, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND UNPARALLELED IN ITS FEROCITY IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN BRITISH ADMINISTRATION."


AS THE NEWS SLOWLY TRICKLED THROUGH INDIA, THERE WAS A GENERAL OUTCRY. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD HIDE THE FACTS NO LONGER. FINALLY THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO SET UP A COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY. IT WAS CALLED THE HUNTER COMMITTEE.
WAS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO DISPERSE THE CROWD WITHOUT FIRING?
I COULD HAVE DISPERSED THEM FOR SOME TIME. BUT THEN THEY WOULD ALL HAVE COME BACK AND LAUGHED AT ME AND I CONSIDERED I WOULD BE MAKING MYSELF A FOOL.
THE HUNTER COMMITTEE CRITICISED DYER ON TWO GROUNDS. DYER HAD OPENED FIRE WITHOUT WARNING AND HE HAD GONE ON FIRING AFTER THE CROWD HAD BEGUN TO DISPERSE.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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